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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (11/10): PALESTINIAN FAMILY
EVICTED AMID CALLS FOR END OF SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES

Main Stories:

Al Quds leads with news of Israeli police using force to evict a Palestinian family from their home in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and then handing the property over to "Israeli settlers" on November 9. All front pages highlight the news, with Al Ayyam and Al Quds running photographs of the evicted Al Kurd family, including the handicapped owner in a wheelchair surrounded by supporters and Israeli police. The Ayyam reports that Israel issued eviction ultimatums to seven other families in the neighborhood, adding that, "the eviction, which coincided with the [Middle East] Quartet meeting, is part of the Israeli plan to build an Israeli settlement replacing 28 Arab houses." Al Quds' inside page shows a series of photos from the eviction including one of Israeli settlers clapping in applause of the eviction.

Al Ayyam and Al Hayat Al Jadida lead with news from the Middle East Quartet meeting in Sharm Al-Sheikh in Egypt on November 9. Al Ayyam quotes Jordan's King Abdullah and the Quartet calling for a continuation of the Annapolis process and a freeze of Israeli settlement activities. Al Hayat Al Jadida quotes Quartet Representative Tony Blair calling on president-elect Obama to give priority to the Palestinian question. The papers also quote Palestinian Authority President Abbas from a joint press conference with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, stating that PA meetings with Israeli Premier Olmert and Livni will continue. Abbas also revealed that the Quartet meeting produced a detailed report about the progress of negotiations since the Annapolis conference." Abbas added, "we know that we will not achieve peace now, but we will make every possible effort to move in that direction," papers report.

Al Quds' front page runs statements by Palestinian Authority (PA)

Presidency representative Nabil Sha'ath announcing that he expects internal Palestinian dialogue to continue in Cairo in two weeks time. The comment, reacting to Hamas' boycott of the talks, was made in Cairo on November 9. The dailies run inside reports about wide-spread anger among the Palestinian public over Hamas' boycott of the talks. Al Ayyam runs a quote by PA President Abbas asking Egypt during a November 9 press conference to assist in forming a transitional PA government committed to previous PLO agreements.

Al Hayat Al Jadida's inside page reports on mass arrests of Fatah activists in Gaza by Hamas.

All front pages report on the Israeli decision to keep Gaza crossings points closed. The reports also note that 30% of Gaza residents suffered loss of electricity on November 9 and experts expect the blackouts to become more frequent and severe if the supply of fuel and spare parts continues to be limited by Israel. The Hamas-run electricity authority in Gaza stated that the population will face, "tough rationing" as Hamas prepares for the population's winter heating needs. In related news, Al Quds' inside page reports on Israeli concerns that smuggling tunnels from Egypt to Gaza have weakened the impact of Israeli sanctions on the Strip.

Al Quds' and Al Hayat Al Jadida's front pages cite Israeli daily Haaretz in quoting Hamas leader Haniyyah expressing willingness to recognize Israel if Israel accepts a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders. Haniyyah's statements were made during a November 9 meeting with foreign supporters who made front page headlines in all Palestinian dailies on November 9 for sailing into Gaza a day before to protest Israel's "blockade" of the Strip. Meanwhile, Hamas

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leader Zahhar is quoted on an inside page of Al Quds stating that, "there is no room for a long-term truce with Israel."

Weekend stories

Sunday, November 9

All front pages highlighted Secretary Rice's November 8 "unprecedented" visit to Jenin. Al Quds ran the headline, Palestinian Authority (PA) Premier, "Fayyad: We thank the United States for its assistance, and need U.S. involvement to end the occupation." Al Ayyam headlines, "Rice in Jenin: This is a place of hope and inspiration- \$14 million dollars to fund projects in the Governorate." Al Hayat Al Jadida headlines, "Rice: I am ever more convinced of the establishment of the Palestinian state." Reporting highlights the success of (PA) security efforts in Jenin, including comments by both Rice and Fayyad that Jenin provides a model for Palestinian government institutions that will make a Palestinian state possible. Photos show Rice and Fayyad cutting a ribbon on a new USAID-funded wing of a Jenin hospital.

Al Ayyam's front page headlines comments by Egypt's Foreign Minister Abu Ghayt expressing his hope that president elect Obama will continue to push the peace process forward, and warning that "the Palestinian people will pay the price," for the postponement of Cairo Palestinian unity talks. " The Arab Leagues' Secretary General Amr Mousa adds his warning in the article, stating, "all Palestinian factions should be aware of the danger of [internal] division to the Palestinian question and the achievement of peace.

Saturday, November 8

The three dailies lead with coverage of the November 7 meeting between Secretary Rice and Palestinian Authority President Abbas in Ramallah. Al Quds quotes "well-informed" sources confirming that Secretary Rice informed Abbas that she will prepare a comprehensive report on the progress made in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations since Annapolis. Sources say Rice stated that the report would "certainly" not blame the Palestinian side and would not contain any "surprises" for the Palestinians. The three newspapers report that Rice expressed 'confidence' that Palestinians will have a state in the near future, reiterating that the process launched in Annapolis laid the foundations for such a state.

Al Ayyam's front page quoted former HAMAS Prime Minister Haniyyah

stating that real impediments still exist before a national dialogue can be launched in Cairo. Haniyyah cited the continued arrests of Hamas activists in the West Bank as an obstacle also inferring that they occur in accordance to U.S. and Israeli requests. Al Qud's front page announced "Plans to enhance settlement activities in Jerusalem neighborhoods." The paper reported that Deputy head of the Israeli Mertz left-wing movement and a member of the Jerusalem Municipal Council "who is known for his stand against the Israeli occupation and settlement activities," announced on November 7 that two large tunnels underneath Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque complex and in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan will be opened soon. He added that plans are underway to prepare East Jerusalem for settlers in the near future. In other Jerusalem news, Al Ayyam front pages a headline that, "only 20% of houses in East Jerusalem to be included" in the Israeli census, according to Al Ayyam's front page. The report quotes officials from the Israeli National Census Department explaining how this year's census of East Jerusalem residents will be conducted. In door-to-door interviews in Dec to Feb., 30 "East Jerusalemite" census department employees will sample 20% of the houses. The process will also include the

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registration of buildings, reporting notes.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Al Quds opines under an editorial entitled, "Evicting the Al Kurd family is another step towards Judaizing Jerusalem" (11/10) "It's unfortunate, if not scandalous, that Palestinian rifts and divisions continue... Israel makes use of these differences to consolidate its presence in Jerusalem and create new de facto settlements in the Arab neighborhoods one house at a time... [Palestinian leaders, you, show] little responsibility towards your capital... Jerusalem's neighborhoods and houses are being lost before your eyes, and you continue bickering; like the monks of the besieged Constantinople, hours before its fall... you argue about what comes first, the release of prisoners or starting dialogue... what a dialogue!"

2) Faisal Abu Khadra writes in Al Ayyam under the title, "A letter to president-elect Obama" (11/10) "Kindly remember that your upcoming administration wants to be a mediator and sponsor of the peace process; which will require standing at an equal distance from the parties, so that it [the administration] won't be for Israel nor against it. We Arabs do not want [the U.S. administration] to be for us but rather for itself and stand for its proposals and programs that have been accepted by all countries; that is, peace for land....Your highness is kindly requested...not to select your envoys, representatives, ambassadors, advisors and mediators for the Middle East issues from one sect and one ideology that is against the Arabs and supports Israel; you can imagine the disappointment in the Arab world when these officials are your top chief employees.

Walles